

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending.

Claims 8-13 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Onodera, U.S. Patent 6,181,435. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

According to claim 8, the first image data (which is in a printer language) is developed into second image data and then the second image data is printed. The time it takes to develop the first image data into the second image data is compared to the time it takes to print the second image data, and if the former time is less than the latter time, the first image data is stored. Applicant maintains that Onodera fails to disclose or suggest comparing the time it takes to develop the first image data, which is a printer language, into the second image data to the time it takes to print the second image data.

The Examiner refers to step S307 of Onodera as disclosing the claimed comparison. Onodera discloses that the processing time for expansion is predicted from the compressed data size predicted at step S306 (col. 6, lines 32-33). Onodera then discloses that the predicted expansion time is compared with the time needed to transfer band raster data by the printing unit 15 (col. 6, lines 44-46). Thus, Onodera discloses comparing the time needed for expansion with the time needed to transfer band raster data by the printing unit. The calculated time needed for expansion does not correspond to the time it takes to develop the first image data as set forth in claim 8. Thus, Onodera fails to teach “comparing a first time required for developing the first image data and a second time required for printing with the second image data.”

Although Applicant has previously pointed out this difference, the Examiner stated that he fails to see how the recitation of “developing the first image data,” where the first image data corresponds to printer language data, rules out a reading of this element in step S307 of Onodera, “inasmuch as the step of expanding compressed raster data is part of the process of converting the original page language data of Onodera to the final form which is sent to a printer.”

Applicant submits that Onodera performs a step which corresponds to the claimed “developing the first image data,” and that step is converting the page description language as disclosed at col. 5, lines 14-17. Onodera specifically states that at step S301, the image data generated in page description language is sent from the host computer to the printer. This corresponds to developing the first image data of claim 8 because the first image data is in a printer language, which is comparable to the page description language of Onodera. Onodera does not, however, calculate this developing time or compare the developing time to the printing time. Since the claim limitation of “developing the first image data” is shown in step S301 of Onodera, it follows that this step would not also be performed in step S307, as asserted by the Examiner. Onodera would not perform the same step twice and in fact does not disclose performing the same step twice. Thus, to answer the Examiner’s question regarding what recitation in claim 8 rules out reading of this element on step S307 of Onodera, Applicant submits that it is not a recitation in claim 8 per se, but rather the disclosure of Onodera itself which rules out such a reading. In conclusion, the comparison that is disclosed in Onodera takes place in step S307 and does not include comparing the time it takes to develop the printer language data with the time it takes to print. Thus, the features of claim 8 are not disclosed or suggested by Onodera.

Claims 10 and 13 recite substantially the same features as recited in claim 8, and are allowable for the same reasons. Claims 9, 11 and 12 are allowable at least due to their respective dependencies. Applicant requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

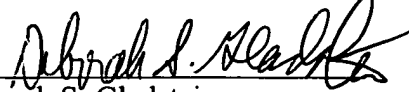
In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection

with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 325772014000.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
Deborah S. Gladstein

Registration No.: 43,636
MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP
1650 Tysons Blvd, Suite 300
McLean, Virginia 22102
(703) 760-7753